

DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY, SCOPE, AND EXTENT OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

In Wisconsin, supported employment is funded by primarily three sources: Title VI, Title I-B and collaborative funding agreements with the Medicaid State Agency (i.e., the Department of Health and Family Services). To a much lesser extent, Social Security PASS plans have been used to maintain a small number of individuals in long-term supported employment. All of these fund sources enhance the quality, scope, and extent of services proposed under the Title VI plan.

The Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) for consumer who select supported employment must identify the source of extended supports or, if the source of extended services cannot be identified at the time of implementation of the plan, the IPE must identify the services, activities and/or progress measures designed to identify the nature, type, scope, requirements and source of extended services in a manner consistent with the Act and its implementing regulations. WDVR does not provide extended services as defined in 361.5(b) (20). Supported employment services are provided only to those individuals with the most significant disabilities and who have an identified likely source of long term support.

The quality of the supported employment program under Title VI includes the following components:

1. Use of State staff to provide coordination, guidance, and consultation to counselors developing and implementing supported employment individualized plans for employment under Title VI or Title I. All district offices receive training and updates on current supported employment policy. The training is provided on an ongoing basis to individuals or field office staff as needed as well as at statewide counselor training events.
2. Provision of training through the use of annual, statewide conferences. DVR staff are involved in planning the annual APSE (Association of Persons in Supported Employment) training conference. DVR staff also help plan the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association/Rehabilitation for Wisconsin Rehabilitation Training Conference. Combined attendance at these two annual conferences exceeds more than 600 participants.
3. Development of comprehensive technical specifications for supported employment, which incorporate specific program evaluation measures including client and employer satisfactions measures for all supported employment providers providing services to the Division. The Technical specifications include strong outcome measures and implement statewide rates for supported employment in Wisconsin. The technical specifications are posted on the DVR website.

4. Development of local demonstrations and capacity building for supported employment vendors. Two DSU/Medicaid State Agency joint ventures, one serving persons with developmental disabilities and the other those with severe and persistent mental illness continue in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Services. The projects impact 10 counties in WI and are funded through June 2007.
5. In FFY '07, DVR staff will participate on a Region V RCEP for Community Rehabilitation Programs advisory committee along with supported employment providers and the APSE board.

The SCOPE and EXTENT of supported employment services is currently limited by the lack of extended services funding for ongoing vocational support. The expansion of these extended services is dependent on; (1) the capacity of the long-term support system to develop/redirect funds to supported employment and (2) the ability of DVR staff to identify and use other extended support resources such as Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), Impairment Related Work Expenditures (IRWE), family support, employer support, natural supports, and SSA milestone payments under the Ticket to Work payment system.

In FFY 06, the DSA/DSU co-hosted a long term employment supports summit meeting for key stakeholder agencies and community partners with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. In FFY '06 and '07 the DSU will continue collaborative efforts through an inter-organizational post-summit workgroup to identify and deploy new systems strategies to address the needs of persons in need of continuing employment supports.